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Cash, coke and 'flop' testimony

By: Rachel Boomer Published on Thu Jul 17 2008

It's never a good idea to fly with $32,000 cash in your suitcase.

It's an even worse idea if there are traces of cocaine on the handle.

And if you're claiming to be carrying massive amounts of cash because you're heading to a big B.C. poker tournament, you might want to make sure there's actually a major tournament going on.

These were the gaping holes in Kevin Patrick Hobbs' story, and they got the Halifax man convicted on charges of possessing proceeds-of-crime cash and trying to transport it.

In a written decision released yesterday, Nova Scotia Supreme Court Justice Felix Cacchione described Hobbs' testimony as "a flop."

"On the whole, Hobbs' evidence was not truthful or convincing. It is not believed or accepted," Cacchione wrote.

Hobbs' trial was held in May and June in Halifax.

Police stopped Hobbs as he embarked on a less than 24-hour trip to Vancouver April 8, 2005, a trip he'd booked the day before. They found no drugs in the bag, but traces of cocaine on the handle and Hobbs' clothing, along with the heat-sealed plastic bags his cash was packed in.

When they raided his home at Chelton Woods Lane, they found a marijuana grow operation, but Hobbs claimed he no longer lived there.

Hobbs claimed he was flying at the last minute to a poker tournament at the River Rock Casino, and that's why he had all the money on him. The casino said it only had minor tournaments during that month, and they didn't have the large buy-ins Hobbs claimed.

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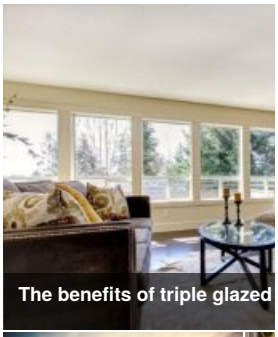
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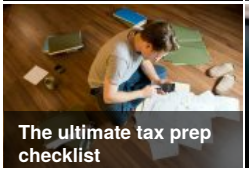
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